

BARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Barningham Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

1. Apologies for absence Cllr Crittall & C.Cllr J Spicer

2. Minutes Minutes of the meeting of 13th May 2016 signed and approved as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Report from Parish Council Chairman: Carol Hammond

Another busy and challenging year for our new councillors, as we completed some projects and new ones were being considered. We work well as a team, with support as always, from Joanna Spicer and Carol Bull, our County and Borough councillors respectively.

Our biggest spend and most exciting project, was the transformation of the activities available to the community on the cricket meadow. This has proved extremely popular. We began in July 2015 with a public meeting so that three providers of community exercise equipment could project their plans for a public vote. HAGS, the company selected, sent catalogues of equipment and the hard task of selection began, with some useful input from some of the youth in the village regarding the exercise equipment.

Installation began in August 2016 and the chairman monitored the site regularly, helping to sort some problems which arose, like storage of the equipment when the delivery lorry could not enter through the Bardwell Road school entrance! There was a lot of interest with great excitement over the Zip Wire especially, as the primary pupils viewed progress from their school. In September, the clerk and some councillors met regarding the goals, inspection was held and it all passed!

At last, the Official Opening was held on 23rd October 2016, advertised, with light refreshments (thanks to the clerk). The County Council sent congratulations, Carol Bull officially cut the ribbon and a pleasant time was had by the few who came. After a couple of minor repairs in November, the account was formally settled in December 2016. The Freerider safety issue in January 2017, was sorted in February. One incident of vandalism to the table tennis equipment was dealt with by the chairman and a replacement settled. Now the meadow echoes to the noise of young people and children having fun. Families visit with little ones and grandparents. A pleasing success.

A great achievement throughout the year, after months of hard work, was the final completion of the Emergency Plan for the village, revised and edited by Councillor Bobby Baxter. Thank you for all of your hard work, Carol Bull included, in completing that marathon task in February 2017. It will be reviewed regularly in the future to update.

Future housing development was another major concern in the community. Pigeon attended meetings in June and August 2016 with two development concepts, the second one adapted after residents' concerns about road access through a current estate. They also met with the Village Hall Committee. It became increasingly clear to the parish council that the only way to be involved in any meaningful way was to embark on A Neighbourhood Plan – a legal plan which ensures community consideration by Borough Council Planning, after a lengthy, legal process. In June 2016 the council began that process and on September 27th training for a Neighbour Plan began. A village survey was planned in October 2016, printed and put out in November. In December 2016, after the results were analysed, showing the range of community concerns, selecting a consultant was the next phase. In January 2017 two consultant firms put forward their applications to help with the Plan. The *Place 4 People* firm was chosen and a public meeting held on March 9 2017. With a drop-in early session and an evening formal one, attendance was pleasing. The rationale behind the Plan, the meaning of it for the village, through talks and visual material was explained, as well as the need for volunteers to come forward to help with the next stages and be part of The Working Party. The application to designate The Neighbourhood Area had been submitted by the clerk. Feedback forms were put out in the meeting and in the shop. These are about to be analysed by the first meeting of The Working Party on May 18th. Very early stages yet! A new bench was approved and placed by the Spar shop and installed for free by a resident in March 2017.

Ongoing issues/ plans:

- Village Hall parking (cost of £3,000+ means it is on hold) / the retirement of the Hall Committee in May 2017 and the required staff to continue smooth running of The Village Hall. Happy to report that as of last night a new committee has been formed with new people coming forward.
- Primary Play Area collapsed fence was fixed after storm Doris and liaison with the house residents who were very helpful
- Broadband in the rural areas /July 2016 green box at Pound Corner
- Community Events –Keep Barningham Beautiful April 23rd. September events around the whole village. A Meeting was held and attended by councillors William Martineau, Mark Dolman, and Bobby Baxter
- Mill Road leak problem – since 2011 / Meeting April 10 2017 Highways and Anglian Water. Chairman attended/ Bardwell Road flooding
- Regular use of the VAS /. Keeping volunteers available and trained for the Speedwatch team.
- Councillor Julia Crittall has shown interest in training as s First Responder

5. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

6. Report of Borough Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull reported that St Edmundsbury had spent a lot of the previous year working towards Devolution and looking at various schemes that the extra funding from this would support. These include a new waste hub and the Bury Masterplan. Unfortunately, due to Norfolk County Council pulling out of the Devolution deal, Suffolk County Council had no option but not to proceed. This means that funding for the Waste Hub and Masterplan will need to be found elsewhere. This could be revenue from extra housing or other, more commercial, planning applications. It is likely that St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath will formally merge. They have been sharing services, and saving money, for some time, but this move will formalise the arrangement. On a more local level Cllr Bull had a very enjoyable time at the Primary School, with the children, staff and MP Matt Hancock celebrating the opening of their new play equipment which Cllr Bull made a financial contribution towards from her locality budget. Matt Hancock also held a meeting at Bardwell to discuss the problems some parishes are facing regarding broadband access. Cllr Bull has a Councillor Award that can be awarded to anyone in the parish who makes a difference to the lives of those in the village. If you know of anyone who has made an outstanding contribution and you would like to nominate them for this award please contact Cllr Bull.

7. Report from Police

No report received.

8. Village Hall Report May 2016 from Brenda Last

This year has been a quiet year in terms of works or repairs to the hall. An emergency light unit in the toilet corridor had to be replaced and the hall florescent tubes have been replaced by Ian Jerrold for us on a number of occasions. Chains were placed between the bollards at the edge of the car park and part of the wooden boundary edging was replaced by Mike Millet and Brian Lodge after it was damaged.

The regular activities continue but several are short on numbers and it is hoped that they can attract new members and so continue.

The loss of Peggy Ellinor as booking secretary and caretaker has been keenly felt and I am grateful to Noreen Grehan for looking after the bookings and organising the cleaning for the last 4 months.

This will be my last report as secretary as I am standing down after many years in this role. My computer shows reports going back to 2002 and I think there may have been ones even before then. It is time a new team took on the village hall and drove it into the 21st century. The building itself is in better condition than it has been for many years but new ideas are needed for making the most of this village facility. I hope sufficient people can be found to do this. It would be sad to see it disappear after almost 70 years of use.

9. Any other Business

No other business.

No further business, meeting closed